



Light

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From Pastor Rustin....

We are all learners. Personally the month of August was one of those months that felt like I was having mental and spiritual growing pains. God was really speaking into my life calling me to what I think is the next phase of my journey with God and the next step for Bethel as well.

Over the last two years we have grown by over 18%, which is actually exceptional growth considering mainline churches are shrinking all around us. But with growth comes change and struggle. Every time we grow as humans there are things that take time for our bodies to learn or adjust to. That is why you often see clumsy, gangly, teenage boys running around or shall I say tripping around. Their bodies are still learning to engage the change that has occurred.

Like these growing teenagers Bethel has grown and now we must engage the change in our body. Statistics tell us that in the majority of churches, 20% of the community does 80% of the work. This is a vastly unhealthy statistic, one that we long to keep from coming true at Bethel. Part of what I have been learning from study and from God encompasses how to avoid this statistic sneaking in on us. The metaphor that has continually been coming forward in my mind is that of a hot Air balloon.

One time on vacation I went to a hot air balloon festival. In those festivals you see people pull their giant deflated fabric balloon carcasses out of trucks and when they first remove the balloons they look like giant Easter baskets with bright fabric tied to them. The hot air balloon is not even close to reaching its potential. But as time goes on and they start to fill the balloon with air the potential comes alive. Pretty soon you have this huge, colorful floating mass flying above the basket, filling the sky with life.

As long as the balloon is tied down it may be very pretty and may look exciting but, it still is not doing what it was created for. In order for that balloon to reach its potential you have to take the risk of untying the balloon, jumping in and choosing to fly.

I feel Bethel is in a similar place. We have built a great system for growth, we have greatly improved the property, we have begun creating excellent programs that will attract families and our community around us. Now, we just have to let go. It is time to expand leadership, equip ourselves and others, to do the work God has shown us as our vision and values. Our balloon is blown up, now we just need to fill the basket and take the risk of letting go. We need to allow people in our community to use their gifts and talents and fulfill their own potential as we corporately fulfill Bethel's.

Over the month of October we will be continuing in our series of spiritual practices that equip us **On Our Way** with Jesus. Our hope as a leadership is that everyone in the community would pick a few of these practices and begin to put them into our daily life. We have picked these specific practices because many of them we already practice corporately as part of our faith journey.

The first two weeks we re-discovered the importance of strengthening our attentiveness. It is in learning to be more attentive that we are able to hear, see, and understand God and each other more clearly. We followed attentiveness by looking at practices of togetherness. During these two weeks we examined what a life lived together looks like and how being in community and intentional friendships can strengthen us. We learned anew that God created us for community and to become who God has called us to be requires our connection with the *other*.

The Daylights will be on tour from late September until January 2011 promoting their new CD. Please keep them in your prayers on this journey. Recently the band performed at Club L in Hollywood and several members of the Bethel Community attended the concert.

The Daylights CD Release Party

By Camille-Claire Ford

On Tuesday, September 14, 2010, The Daylights had their much anticipated and awaited for record release in Hollywood. Their debut album, self entitled "The Daylights" was independently created in London, a place far away from where they got their start, in Los Angeles. Zack Levi of *Chuck* and Joel Moore of *Dodgeball* and *Avatar* have long been friends of the band's and graciously hosted the CD release party in the epicenter of Hollywood's Sunset Strip at Club L. But remaining true to the spirit of who The Daylights are, the release party was not solely for the self-promotion of their music. It was also a charity event benefiting Red Eye Inc., a non-profit organization linking together today's youth with an attitude of giving back through arts, culture and communication. (<http://www.redeyeinc.org/>)

A vast array of faces were broadcast throughout the crowd standing in support for The Daylights, including famous musicians like Katy Perry, non-profit founders like Justin Mayo and the community of Bethel Lutheran Church of Encino. The congregation lined-up babysitters for the night, caravanned down to the venue, and were quickly embraced by the open arms of their own worship leaders, Ran, Ricky, and Svend (i.e. The Daylights). Through this event different people from different backgrounds sharing the commonality of The Daylights sang and danced together in unison to their harmonious lyrics. The release of the record gave Bethel the opportunity to not only support their former worships leaders, but also engage in the burgeoning career and life of these kind-hearted and truly gifted musicians.

Because the record was made independent of a record label, the concrete success depends on people finding out about it through word of mouth. So please help promote them via Facebook, Twitter, blogging, emailing and the office water cooler chat! Here is their direct link on Itunes: <http://bit.ly/a0TAjs>

TWIN VALLEYS CONFERENCE FALL ASSEMBLY

Sunday, October 24, 5pm to 7:30 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

6020 Radford St. No. Hollywood, 91606

(activity hall on the Laurel Hall School side)

Possible!

Congregations reaching out in mission and ministry

Video Presentations by:

Emmanuel, North Hollywood

St. Matthew's, North Hollywood

St. Stephen's, Granada Hills

Central, Van Nuys

**Dinner \$5/person RSVP Pr. Tricia Lowe
818-761-6124**

WOW! Worship featuring:

Pr. Rustin Comer

Bethel, Encino

Pr. Jennifer Amos

Central, Van Nuys

Pr. Bernt Hillesland

St. Luke Woodland Hills

Pr. Susan Devol,

St. Matthew, North Hollywood

Pr. Sam Platts, Conference Dean

Church of the Foothills, Sylmar

Member Spotlight

Bill Meyers

Multi-faceted - If there were only one word that could be used to describe **Bill Meyers**, it would have to be multi-faceted. In addition to being an accomplished musician in his own right, **Meyers** has produced, arranged, composed and orchestrated music for some of the most prolific artists. Meyers demonstrated a love for the arts at an early age, but it was his family's old Hammond organ that he found his true calling. A few years (and a few lessons) later, Meyers became an accomplished classical organist. While on scholarship at DePaul University, he discovered jazz and pop. "Chicago was a big blues town", he recalls, "I also got heavily into R&B while retaining my love for organized music. That's what led me into pop orchestration." Upon moving to Los Angeles, Meyers joined the prestigious ranks of the industry's most requested studio musicians. Meyers' creativity was not limited exclusively to other artists. Somehow, in the midst of his extensive work with other artists, he managed to find the time to record three solo albums – the Grammy nominated, all-instrumental *Images*, his first vocal LP, *The Color of Truth* and *All Things In Time*. The greatest thrill of all for Bill is film work. "As a kid, I remember seeing Patton with Jerry Goldsmith's brilliant score and saying, "that's what I want to do", Meyers reminisces.

Bill's Story

Unfortunately, 2008 was a very difficult year for me. I had sold my house in the Hollywood Hills, expecting to find a child friendly home in the valley with my wife. Instead, she ended the marriage & while trying to sort things out we agreed to put Cole & Evan in a preschool with a somewhat central location. This happened around May of that year. After having Cole in a Montessori School, I wasn't sure of the quality of education he would receive; but I was pleasantly surprised by Bethel Preschool for both Cole & my younger son Evan (who was just starting a preschool). The teaching staff impressed me, & I liked the type of families that had chosen Bethel. This got me to think about investigating Bethel Church. I was raised Catholic, but had drifted for some time from organized religion. To complicate things more, my ex is agnostic, & during our marriage would not support any attempt to become a part of a religious community. Fortunately, my circumstances changed with the divorce, & I knew that my children needed spiritual guidance. I thought that some of the families attending the preschool would also attend the church (which would help the children to assimilate) so we began to attend Bethel Lutheran. This was shortly before Pastor Rustin & Heather Comer arrived. I saw a small group of people working at keeping the church alive after a difficult period. I could relate to this completely because it paralleled my own experiences that year. We stayed & grew with the church, & I'm proud to be a member of Bethel Encino. I made a decision for my children & it has helped them immensely; but the truth is it has helped me even more. In 2009 my schedule opened up at the last moment, & I was able to take part in the Walk A Thon. It was a wonderful experience, & that lead me to get more involved with other LSS events since then. The toy drive, & the homeless center supper were opportunities to show my children how lucky they were, & the need to help others less fortunate. This year I hope to get more people involved (both participating & pledging). I plan on having the children there with me this year, & I look forward to sharing this great event with my extended family at Bethel.

Mission Ministry

Moving from Networking to Partnership

We that are strong out to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those you reproached you fell on Me"

Romans 15: 1-3

On Sunday September 26th, 2010 Bethel had the pleasure of serving as table cabins at the annual Fundraising event for our partners in ministry, the **San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission**.

We were called to share our experiences and the joy that comes with serving at the Mission. That was the heart of the "**Where New Journeys Begin**" banquet, along with the theme for the evening.

The guests were taken on a "Journey" with several families as they encountered the decisions that created their unique experience with the Mission. It was an inspirational night with live and video testimonies. Testimonies of those who have begun their "New Journey", refugees from the streets and those recovering from addiction, seeking restoration and reconciliation.

The speakers shared the innovative strategies that are being deployed at the Rescue Mission to impact and transform lives. The guests were asked to deeply consider what had been presented, and how they could contribute to the work of the Mission.

Bethel will continue to cultivate our partnership with the Rescue Mission at the quarterly meal serving on Saturday, October 9th at 6:00. Won't you please partner with the Mission Ministry team as we work together to reach our community for Christ.

In His Service,

Genise Burgess

Mission Ministry Chair

Women of Faith Conference

Have you ever been asked to "Escape from the every day and be refreshed, encouraged and inspired. Learn to look at life through the lens of possibility?"

Ephesians 3:20 - Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.

The God who loves you can do far more than you can ever imagine

This was the theme of the Women of Faith Conference held at the Honda Center in Anaheim. This 2-day women's retreat challenged women to trust God and His transforming love.

The conference leaders provided keys to helping us feel fulfilled, loved, and successful, through worship, music, and drama.

They spoke of the simple significance of love and the revolutionary power that it carries. Can we Imagine a love revolution? No one ever left an encounter with Jesus unchanged. The Pharisees fumed, paralytics walked and pariahs found love and acceptance.

We (women and men) are invited to come and meet the Jesus who is both safe and strong – and learn how this radical Redeemer can liberate our lives; to live and love with abandon.

Can we Imagine - changing the world by actively living out our faith.

Who's Who - Grace in Action

We at Bethel have been blessed to be stewards of a wonderful property. As we live out our vision and mission to be a relevant presence of love, compassion and acceptance we have sought partnerships with



Makom Ohr Shalom synagogue is "Jewish Renewal", which simply means that the focus is on spirituality, meaning, and joy in the faith, with the aspiration of renewing the community and the tradition. It is a warm, friendly and diverse community, committed to outreach and inclusiveness in prayer and study of the Torah. Meditation and original music is regularly incorporated into the traditional liturgy. One visitor called Makom, "a Jewish experience that will touch your heart." The Rabbi told Pastor Rustin that being at Bethel has filled the community with a sense of having a spiritual home, something that had not been felt in 30 years.



Grace Harvest is about unity, love, fellowship and a sense of community. They believe that a church home provides real connection and a sense of "family", which many in our society crave. Grace Harvest offers Sunday services, Fellowship following service, Missions/Outreach, and a Wednesday House of Prayer meeting in a Prophetic environment. They have a concentration on intercession and healing. Service Hours are Sunday Worship Service at 1:00 p.m. and Wednesday Night House of Prayer at 7:00 (Intercession) 7:30 service begins. Currently, Grace Harvest has 20 people at the Sunday worship service.



Picadilly, LLC was created to provide a more extensive training ground and additional performance opportunities for these aspiring young artists. As mothers of children in the public school setting, both Paula Keane and Nina Rawlinson became discouraged by the lack of music and performing arts exposure. Utilizing her knowledge and experience, Paula pioneered a unique theater arts program. This curriculum, which developed as part of an after school enrichment program Nina facilitated, offered students a comfortable arena to explore and develop their creative selves, promoting both teamwork and a positive self-image. Paula and Nina consider it a gift to have a hand in passing an appreciation for the arts onto future generations. The 2010 session will start in October with 5 classes, at Bethel.

Calvary Chapel-Mid Valley

It has been 5 years that Bethel and Calvary Chapel entered into a shared ministry agreement. The current lease is coming to an end in November; however there is a high likelihood that the lease agreement will be extended until January 2011. Both congregations have been blessed by the relationship and we continue to be in prayer for Pastor Cuff and the Calvary Chapel family.

Al-Anon

Al-Anon meets on Monday and Thursday. The Monday night session is the largest in the Valley.

The one constant in life is change. Sometimes that change is both sad, joyful and challenging. It is with sadness that I tell you that our preschool director Stefani has left us to move her family to orange county. We were very surprised! However Stefani has left our school extremely healthy and ready for a new director.

Bethel and our school was blessed by her organization and leadership for the last year. By her guidance our staff is stronger, our curriculum, richer, and our mission more defined. We will now take the time necessary to find the best candidate to lead bethel preschool for the years to come.

Michael and I have interviewed six candidates thus far and will continue to do interviews over the next few weeks. Michael, Lisa, and I would love your prayer support in the weeks to come and we will notify you with all changes and updates as they come our way.

Stefani's letter of resignation is to the right, so you can see what our parents received.

Peace and Hope,

Pastor Rustin

September 21, 2010

To Our Wonderful Bethel Families,

As most of you know, my family moved out here a year ago from Arizona to take this job at Bethel. It was a huge sacrifice and leap of faith, but we whole-heartedly trusted God's plan for our family. What great work He has done here! I am honored that I was chosen to lead this preschool into the direction it's moving. I have met so many wonderful people both through the church and the preschool. I will never forget you.

My husband and I have been praying for several years for God to lead us back to California. He brought us to the valley and it was an answered prayer. He most recently brought another opportunity to our lives, the chance to move to Orange County and be close to about 90% of my family. This came much sooner than we were expecting, but we cannot give up this opportunity for our family.

I have bittersweet news to share with all of you today. It's with a saddened heart that I am writing to you to say that my family and I will be moving to Orange County. My last day at Bethel will be Friday, October 1. This is sudden and unexpected, I know. Our decision to move is solely based on our long-term goal to be closer to family. I love Bethel and the wonderful people here. My prayer is that God will continue to do amazing things on this campus and in the lives of everyone He brings here.

Thank you to everyone for this opportunity and for bringing your child to Bethel Preschool. They will forever have an impact on my life. I leave a wonderful staff of teachers who are dedicated and great with your children. Please help support them through this transition with consistency and prayers.

I love you all very much and will miss you terribly. I will continue to pray for Bethel and this community.

God bless,

Stefani Ernst

SAVE THE DATE!

We will be serving dinner to the residents of the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission on Saturday, October 30th. Contact Genise Burgess if you would like to help serve or contribute!





SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 AM

Sunday School & Childcare available every Sunday

BETHEL ENCINO ELCA

17500 Burbank Boulevard, Encino CA 91316-1718
818.788.2653

Website: www.bethelencino.org Email: bethel_encino@sbcglobal.net

Pastor: Rustin Comer

Administrator: Lisa Brown



Telephone: 818.788.8269

Email: bethel_encino@sbcglobal.net

New Ways To Give

One of Bethel's goals is to make giving of your time, gifts, and money as accessible as possible. So we have created a way to give online. Go to the link below and click on "give & serve"
www.bethelencino.org